

Viet War Going Well, Says Dodd

CLEVELAND, May 6 (AP) — Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) said today that American newsmen have sent home an inaccurate, imbalanced and inadequate picture of the war in Viet-Nam.

In a speech before the Cleveland Press Club, Dodd, just back from a tour of the Far East, declared:

"I came away from Viet-Nam with the impression that the war is going much better for our side than can be gleaned from a reading of the press, that government morale is higher and Viet Cong morale lower, that the outlook

for the future is more promising."

Dodd said some stories should never have been told because they violated security. Two weeks ago, he said, a story from Danang air base mentioned operation of the Blue Streak reconnaissance drone.

"This was a top-secret matter," Dodd said.

Dodd also criticized the way American newsmen reported the use of nonlethal gas.

"No one would have been excited, no one would have protested," Dodd said, "if the headline and lead sentence in

each story had made it clear that we used tear gas and not poison . . . (because) . . . use of such gases in the control of riots is so routine a matter that the fact would hardly warrant inclusion in any riot story headline."

Instead, Dodd charged, the lead sentences of stories on the gas left "the clear impression that what was involved was poison gas of the World War I type."

He said U.S. newsmen have paid more attention to mistreatment of Viet Cong prisoners than to Communist terrorism aimed at the South Vietnamese people.